

THE IBIS.

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I.—On a rare Species of *Touracou* (*Turacus ruspolti*).

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(Plate I.)

TURACUS RUSPOLII.

Turacus sp. Matschie, Journ. f. Orn. 1896, p. 94 (descriptio falsa).

Turacus ruspolti Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. (2) xvi. p. 14 (1896); Dubois, Syn. Av. i. p. 89, no. 1241 (1899); Sharpe, Hand-list, ii. p. 153, no. 12 (1900); Rehnw. Vög. Afr. ii. p. 45, no. 596 (1902); Erlang. Journ. f. Orn. 1905, p. 435; Dubois, Gen. Av., Musophagidæ, pp. 3, 4, no. 8 (1907).

Syncipite et lateribus capitis supra oculos griseo-virescentibus; crista compressa albida vix virescente tincta, basi plumarum roseo induta, postice in parte ima rubra; genis, collo, dorso summo et pectore viridi-olivaceis, genis flavicantioribus; gula, ut videtur, viridi-grisescente; dorso alisque cæruleo-chalybeis; remigibus primariis rubro-puniceis, cæruleo-chalybeo marginatis; abdomine et subcaudalibus fusco-griseis; cauda viridichalybea, paulum cæruleo-nitente; rostro et verrucis palpebralibus rubris; pedibus fuscis.

Long. tot. 400 mm., al. 180, caud. 200, rostri culm. 24, tarsi 42.

The very peculiar colouring of the head of this species makes it very different from all the other known species. The crest, which is quite compressed, is greenish-grey in the

anterior part, then slightly tinged with rose-colour, whitish towards the end, but in the lower hind part there is a tuft of bright red feathers.

The type of this very distinct species was collected by the unfortunate Prince Ruspoli during his exploration of the region round Lake Rudolf. Although we do not know the exact locality where the specimen was collected, it has been supposed that it was near Lake Bissan Abaia or Abai, discovered by Ruspoli to the north-east of Lake Stephanie.

The first notice of this bird was given by Dr. Matschie (*l. c.*), who saw it in the Museum of Genoa, and published a description, probably from memory, as it is quite incorrect.

It is very strange that the bird has not been met with again by later travellers, and this circumstance has induced me to have a figure of this rare Touracou published in order to make it better known.

The locality Somali-land, attributed to this species by Dubois and Sharpe, does not seem to me exact, Abaia or Abai Lake being much more in the interior and forming part of the Abyssinian empire. In this region it appears that Baron von Erlanger carefully searched for the bird, but without success.

The type specimen, preserved in the Museum of Genoa, is still unique, so that *Turacus ruspolii* is perhaps the rarest species of the genus.

II.—*A Third* Contribution to the Ornithology of Cyprus.*

By JOHN A. BUCKNILL, M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

(Plate II.)

My official connection with the Island of Cyprus came to an end in July 1912, and I left this very charming and beautiful spot with very sincere regret. As a valedictory contribution to the literature of the local Avifauna I have

* First contribution: 'Ibis,' 1909, pp. 569-613; 'Ibis,' 1910, pp. 1-47, 385-435. Second contribution: 'Ibis,' 1911, pp. 632-656.

